

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-07

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2265

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, SREF, DA

SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE CHILDREN IN DENMARK

REF: COPENHAGEN 591, DEPARTMENTS A-920

1. IN REMARKS TO NEWSMEN YESTERDAY FOLLOWING A CABINET MEETING ON THE FATE OF THE VIETNAMESE CHILDREN, PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN SAID THAT WHILE THE DANISH GOVERNMENT STILL FELT THAT THE CHILDREN SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THEIR HOMELAND AND THEIR OWN SURROUNDINGS, THEY WOULD NOT BE FORCED BACK IF THEY DID NOT WISH TO RETURN. IF IT APPEARED THAT THE CHILDREN HAD A STRONG DESIRE TO REMAIN IN DENMARK AND BE INTEGRATED INTO DANISH SOCIETY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO IT.

2. THE PM'S STATEMENT CONFIRMS PUBLICALLY WHAT THE MFA TOLD THE EMBASSY INFORMALLY SOME TIME AGO: THAT THE DANISH POSITION REMAINS ONE OF EVENTUAL REPATRIATION, BECAUSE IT IS DEEMED BEST FOR THE CHILDREN, BUT THAT NO CHILD WOULD BE REPATRIATED AGAINST HIS WILL. SINCE NONE OF THE CHILDREN WANT TO RETURN, REPATRIATION IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY.

3. THE DANIS PRESS REPORTED THAT HENNING BECKER'S LAWYER, HOLGER LINDHOLT, HAD SENT A COMPLAINT CONCERNING DANISH TREATMENT OF THE CHILDREN TO THE WHITE HOUSE

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AND STATE DEPARTMENT. THE EMBASSY YESTERDAY RECEIVED A

COPY OF THE TELEX MESSAGE, ADDRESSED TO THE US PRESIDENT AND US CONGRESS. IN IT LINDHOLT CITES FM K.B. ANDERSEN'S RECENT STATEMENT OF THE DANISH INTENTION TO REPATRIATE THE CHILDREN, STATES THAT BECKER IS THE LEGAL GUARDIAN, AND APPEALS TO USG TO "TAKE EFFECTIVE DIPLOMATIC AND OTHER MEASURES TOWARD THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WITH THE AIM TO STOP THIS ACT OF CRIME". LINDHOLT ASSERTS IT IS ILLEGAL UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW TO SEPARATE THE CHILDREN FROM BECKER, PREVENT THE GROUP FROM TRAVELLING TO US OR ANOTHER COUNTRY, AND CARRY OUT "CRUEL POLICE ACTIONS" AGAINST THE CHILDREN. FOR FURTHER DETAILS LINDHOLT SUGGEST REFERENCE TO LARRY WARD, FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, INC.

4. EMBASSY POUCHING COPY OF TELEX, WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT INFORMED OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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